Episode 3- Mike Does Art Stuff I Guess

scene 1- int. mike's bedroom, october 11th, 11PM

I'm like sittin' there reading up some film theory shit. MELISSA is peeping over my shoulder.

mike (v.o.)

So film, like any other art form, is a means for maintaining the appearance of the shamanistic bksldajlk akljflkdsjo asojopivjd... you know what I haven't seen in a long time? Catdog. Man, I wonder if I would still like-

melissa

Mike, are you staying focused?

MIKE

Yeah... it's like... boring though. Screw this poop.

MELISSA

You know, if you find this kind of thing boring, maybe you shouldn't make it your major?

MIKE

What else am I going to do? I don't really want to do... anything...

MELISSA

Oh, that's not true. What about your series stuff? You like doing that.

MIKE

Yeah, but ain't nobody gonna take me seriously without a diploma. And even so... nobody'll get it.

MELISSA

Come on, now. I like it.

MIKE

Well of course you do.

MELISSA

Well... your dad likes it.

MIKE

Well of course he does.

MELISSA

Fine. Joe likes it. And he's a snob like you! Sorry... elitist.

MIKE

I'm no elitist. I just don't like things that suck. So... you know... almost everything.

MELISSA gives a "told you so" grin.

MIKE

Whatever. I need to finish this anyways. Where was I? Uh... here. Important for preserving humanity's past, present, future. Good. Done.

MELISSA

Mike, you were not focused at all on that thing. Do it again!

MIKE

No... I don't wanna.

MELISSA

Oh, fine... if you have a reading quiz and you don't know what to say though don't blame me.

MIKE

Whatever. I get it. It's about... realism and shit.

MELISSA

Masterful. Anyways, what else you gotta do tonight?

MIKE

I'm pretty sure I'm done!

MELISSA

Cool! What do you wanna do? Work on your series?

MIKE

Eh... not yet. There's something I want to do first.

MELISSA

Is it what I think it is?

MIKE

Of course it is, dude!!!

She pounces on me and we go at it!!!

intro sequence!!!

scene 2- int. mike's bedroom, october 12th, 2:30am

I'm rewatching old footage of Fringe Patrol online in sheer abjection. I lean my head against my hand as I watch the attempts at comedy.

MIKE (V.O.)

Good lord... what on earth were we thinking when we made this?

MELISSA

Oh, don't be such a hardass meanie pants. It was your first series, you guys didn't know what you were doing.

MIKE

I mean, I don't even... do you know how much time and money I threw away on this project? And I didn't even have any creative control!

MELISSA

Well that was dumb and you should have, but you still-

MIKE

You know, I wouldn't even have a problem with that if it came out looking even somewhat... competent. Look, there I am opening the door. Oops, it doesn't fit in the frame. Shouldn't someone have said something-

MELISSA

Okay, so it's kind of...

MIKE

TRASH!

MELISSA

...Well, it was fun at the time, right?

MIKE

I mean it was at first, but MY SUMMER!!! IT'S GONE, LIKE THE REST OF THAT FUCKING YEAR!!!

MELISSA

Okay, well at least it's over, right? All that lame poopie is over, right?

MIKE

Yeah, but...

She sneaks a kiss in.

MELISSA

Come on. Turn this off.

I turn it off.

MELISSA

Good. So... shall we write tonight?

MIKE

No... tomorrow.

MELISSA

Man!!! You say that, but tomorrow will turn into tomorrow and… you know what I mean? Just do it!

MIKE

No…

MELISSA

DO IT!!!

MIKE

NO!!!!!!!!!!!

MELISSA

Do it or no sex!

Staredown!

MIKE

Tomorrow, alright?

MELISSa

Fine, but DO IT. And what I say goes.

MIKE

Starting when?

MELISSA

Starting now, sucker chump!

I give her a look.

MELISSA

…Okay, starting tomorrow morning.

We pounce on each other again!!!

MIKE

Man, don't you ever get sexed out?

MELISSA

Not even! What do you think I am, a "real" woman?

MIKE

YOU'RE AWESOME!!!

MELISSA

YOU'RE THE BEST IN THE WORLD!!!

MIKE

Eh, I'm alright I guess.

scene 3- int. angell hall auditorium A, oct. 12th 1:30 PM

I'm there in freakin' lecture hall listening to this guy just talk and talk and talk... MAN am I bored!

prof culkin

SO, in Citizen Kane, the absolute and undisputed king of movies, the improved film stock and camera focus allowed for what is known as "deep focus", wherein subjects are composed closer and away from the frame to enhance the subject's state of mind. In the scene where... (he babbles on sotto vocce)

MIKE (V.O.)

Good lord... why doesn't he give Orson Welles a blowjob while he's at it?

MEL poofs in

MELISSA

Hey man, it's like the best movie of all time, I guess.

MIKE

Look, I've seen it enough times to know why people think that. But come on, listen to this guy!

PROF CULKIN

And if Citizen Kane was a woman I would ask it out on a date, and I would tell it it's pretty, and ask it to be my lady, and...

MELISSA

Oh... he's just really passionate about it. There's nothing wrong with being passionate about something, is there?

She leans up against me and takes my hand.

MIKE

Not when it's about ME!!!

MELISSA

Oh, YOU!!!

She sneaks in a cheek kiss!

MIKE

Me. But this lecture? It's NOT me. I'm bored!

MELISSA

Alright, so you wanna go home?

MIKE

No... at this point I'd have to head back to class once I got home. So...

MELISSA grabs my pencil hand and drags it towards my notebook.

MIKE

What are you doing? Cut that shit out!

MELISSA

Man, trust my shit. This'll help pass the time.

PROF CULKIN

And while Orson Welles never responded back to any of my letters, I think the message I left on his lawn was an apt summation of how I felt...

MIKE

Please.

She makes my hand start doodling a thing. It's like an animal thing that's supposed to be MEL.

MIKE

What's that?

MELISSA

It's me!

MIKE

No way, man. That looks nothing like you.

MELISSA

Yeah... not really.

MIKE

Eh it's probably my dumb hands' fault. I can't draw for poop.

MELISSA

Not with that attitude! Remember when you were 10? You drew things all the time! Comics, maps, character designs, et cetera... why'd you stop, anyways?

MIKE

Because what I drew... blew.

MELISSA

Hey, that's not a cool attitude. Cut that out.

MIKE

Oh okay, I'll just decide to like all my stupid drawings from now on.

MELISSA

Sure, why not? Check it out.

She makes my hand doodle something again. It's METAL_____ and DANNAY!

MIKE

That's actually not too bad.

MELISSA

I know, right? And if you keep at it, who knows? You may get pretty freakin' good!

MIKE

Well... I guess I could work at it more.

MELISSA

That's the spirit!

PROF CULKIN

...But his children have NOT been very supportive in my efforts. And they also lack the talent that Orson was blessed with...

MIKE

Quick, give me something else to draw!

scene 4- int. mike's bedroom, october 12th, 11PM

I'm sitting there watching TV in my undies with a laptop open in front of me, a zombie JUST LIKE YOU. MEL is sitting beside me waiting for me to do something.

MELISSA

You look like you need something to do.

MIKE

Nah, I'm doing this...

I'm clicking on stuff and occasionally glancing at a rerun of some Disney Channel show.

disney asshole #1

I think we should be pop people, man.

disney asshole #2

Pop like SNAP KRACKLE POP!!!?

Laughtrack.

DISNEY ASSHOLE #1

I think you're stupid and you should be physically harmed.

MELISSA

How can you watch this?

Laughtrack. MEL makes me turn of the TV.

MIKE

Hey!

MELISSA

Come on, you deserve better than that stupefying schlock.

MIKE

It's background noise. If I just sit here on the computer with just my thoughts I'll surely go insane.

MELISSA

How about some music or something? Like some Fred Astaire and Ginger Rodgers, maybe?

MIKE

I ain't got none of that musical crap.

MELISSA

Man, why not?

MIKE

I'm not a gay, that's why!

MELISSA

Classy.

MIKE

You know me. You don't like it, go and suck a dick! Shit! Fuck! Poop.

MELISSA

Wow. You know, women really like vulgarity.

MIKE

You do, apparently.

MELISSA

If you say so. Anyways, you can have whatever on as background noise, I guess. But how about something good?

MIKE

But Disney Channel sitcoms are the chicken soup for the writer/artist's soul! No matter how poopie I feel about my stuff, at least it's not...

I turn on the TV.

DISNEY ASSHOLE #2

We have to finish baking these cakes for the president's daughter!

DISNEY ASSHOLE #1

Did you remember to use strawberry frosting?

both assholes

UH OH!!!

Laughtrack... ugh.

MELISSA

Yeah, that's all fine and good, if you did any writing or art stuff!

MIKE

Yeah, well... that's the way... the cookie... shove it up your butt...

MELISSA

What's the issue here, Mike? Why can't you do nothing?

MIKE

I dunno. I'm having trouble visualizing anything for some reason. Mindblock, maybe?

MELISSA

Oh, is that so?

MIKE

Yeah. And if I don't have any access to a clear stream of consciousness it's going to come out lame and stupid. Like I'll write two lines in an hour then delete them and give up.

MELISSA

I see. Well then, our objective becomes clear.

MIKE

What objective? Are you just saying things?

MELISSA

Not JUST saying things, DOING some things, too!

She jumps into my brain and then drags me in behind her somehow!?!?

scene 5- int. mike's imagination, october 12th, 11Pm?

We go into my imagination and land in a corridor full of ludicrous figments and vulgar images.

MIKE

Melissa, what is this insane place?

MELISSA

This is my home. That's right, Mike. We're in your crazy little imagination place! Bet you've never seen anything like this before, huh?

MIKE

Eh, this storyline has been done before-

MELISSA

MAN, WHATEVER, BUTT TURKEY! EVERYTHING'S BEEN DONE BEFORE! THIS IS STILL COOL!!!

MIKE

Butt turkey?

MELISSA

Now I KNOW you've never been called THAT before.

MIKE

Well, actually... you're a butt turkey.

COMMERCIAL BREAK!!!

MELISSA

You're a butt turkey!!! So there.

MIKE

Well. That's whatever shut up. How did we get into my imagination?

MELISSA

Simple. I jumped in and then I pulled you in after me.

MIKE

Yeah, well... that doesn't happen in sane world.

MELISSA

Oh, relax. This is just a metaphor to provide a visual embodiment of the abstract concept of imagination.

A shouting squiggly line bolts by.

squiggly line

Apple elk rock cheese in teriyaki balls trap crap in two!!!!!!!!

MELISSA

In your case, VERY abstract.

MIKE

Great, now you're aware of the fourth wall?

MELISSA

No, I'm just saying what you tell me to.

MIKE

Well... you... whatever. What are we doing here, anyways?

MELISSA

We're explorating your creative and cognitive functions to find the reason you won't do any of your art shit.

MIKE

Maybe because it's shit? You really know how to inspire confidence.

MELISSA

Oh whoops, did I say that? Okay, why you won't do any of your art STUFF... so can you dig that shit?

MIKE

Watch me now.

I do a little dance while she watches.

MIKE

I can dig it!!!

MELISSA

You're weird. I like you.

She comes up and kisses me.

MIKE

Well then... let's get rid of that block so I can get even weirder.

MELISSA

Check this out.

She does a little dance while I watch!

MELISSA

That's what I say to that!

MIKE

But you didn't say nothing.

She grabs me and we plunge into my brain, full of flashes of memories, dreams, and other shit. We wind up way back when I was like 10 or something and doing Ballon Man [sic] comics.

scene 6- int. mike's parents house, 2000, evening

Yeah so that's what's going on. That stuff I said up there.

MIKE

Is this my block? What is this?

MELISSA

This is you when you were ten. Back when you did all sorts of drawings, comics, et cetera.

MIKE

So... what are we doing here?

MELISSA

We're going back to square one, breaking down the events in your life that led to your current slump.

MIKE

So it's like my own Citizen Kane?

MELISSA

...I wasn't thinking that, but sure, you could say that. Well... no, not really...

MIKE

And I did!

I go investigate my drawings.

MIKe

Well ain't that precious. I'm just as awful at drawing here as I am now. At least I'm better at spelling now.

MELISSA

Hey, how do you expect to get better at anything if you don't practice at it? Come on, even I'm more realistic than that.

MIKE

Grr... you'd think that growing up and expanding my worldview would translate to better-

MELISSA

Nope. None of that amounts to diddly poop if you don't hone your craft. I mean, you didn't get good at writing because you didn't write, although lately you seem to think that's the way to go-

MIKE

Yeah, whatever. Besides, who says I'm good at writing!

MELISSA

I do! Mike, you have so much potential. I just want to know why you aren't living up to it.

MIKE

Take a look at the TV.

An episode of DRAGONBALL Z comes on!!!

MELISSA

Aw snap, I love Dragonball Z! Hey, do you think Sailor Moon is on next?

MIKE

I think they stopped airing it at this point... er... wait...

MELISSA

Don't worry, your secret's safe with me. (wink) So what's the problem then? Too much media bombardment?

MIKE

No, that's not it... it's more like one day I realized that what I was drawing will never be as good as THAT.

TV shows a pic of Goku in super buff super form!

MELISSA

What??? That kinda thing is supposed to inspire you to do better, not break you down?

MIKE

Well... maybe the next thing will explain it better.

young mike

Dad, can I have some spaghetti-o's? Dad? DAD? DAD! I WANT SOME SPAGHETTI-O'S!

MIKE

Right, next place!!!

scene 7- int. 4th grade classroom, 2000, noonish

My 10-year-old self is drawing comic stuff during class.

MELISSA

Look, you're drawing in class. It's just like earlier today!

MIKE

Yeah, some things never change. Unfortunately.

MELISSA

What do you mean?

BRAT KIDS come up on me.

MELISSA

Oh. Right.

brat kid #1

What, are you doing some comics? Let me see!

brat kid #2

This is stupid. You're stupid, Mike.

BRAT KID #1 rips it up.

brat kid #3

Why don't you commit suicide, you worthless freak? Gay.

YOUNG MIKE

Mrs. Malcontent, these guys ripped up my comic and called me names!

mrs. malcontent

Well, you shouldn't have been drawing comics in class, you little shit. GET OVER HERE!

She grabs me and pulls me to the corner, and pulls out a whip.

MELISSA

Come on. Mrs. Malcontent?

MIKE

Yeah, that was her name. And that's exactly what happened-

MELISSA

Mike, I was floating around in your subconscious back then. I know what happened.

MIKE

Well... it was more or less how I felt every day in this horrible place... let's blow this poop stand.

scene 5 again

The classroom dissolves and we wind up back in imaginationportal land.

MIKE

So you think that could explain why I didn't want to do art stuff?

MELISSA

That one instance? No. BUT repeated traumas could have led to a crippling inferiority complex...

MIKE

Well...

scene 8- "the block", october 12th, 11PM?

All the awful people in the world are gathered there flinging insults at me.

MIKE

I always hated crowds.

MELISSA

So people haven't always been nice to you.

MIKE

Far from it.

MELISSA

Right. Well, people are mean sometimes. You've been pretty mean to people too, you know.

MIKE

Yeah well, product of my environment, I guess.

She slaps me upside the head.

MELISSA

Mike, I hate to say this, but... quit being a little bitch! Are you going to let these mindless ass crackers control your life forever, or are you going to grow up, get over it, and move on!

MIKE

Whoa... Melissa...

MELISSA

Yeah, I can be quite the drill sergeant when I wanna be. So what're ya gonna do?

MIKE

I guess it's time to move down the road.

MELISSA

Damn straight! But there's a roadblock ahead.

MIKE

I think I know what to do.

MEL summons a sledgehammer and gives it to me!

MELISSA

Have fun, sweetie.

Kiss! And I'm off to business!

BRAT KID #1

LOSER!!!

HAMMERED!

BRAT KID #2

FREAK!!!

HAMMERED!

MRS. MALCONTENT

You're going to live in a box!

HAMMERED!!!

MELISSA

She never said that though!

teen twirp #1

Faggot!!!

HAMMERED!

teen twirp #2

Retard!!!

HAMMERED!

asshole roommate

Degenerate!!!

HAMMERED!

K_____

Like I'd ever go out with you.

HAMMERED!

s_____

Psycho stalker!!!

SUPER HAMMERED!!! I keep hammering for a while, but I tucker myself out and put the hammer down. Too much stuff.

MIKE

There's too much stuff here!

lee

You're not funny. Now just go away.

MIKE

Lee said that!?!

MELISSA

Yeah, I know, right?

scene 4 again

MELISSA

Do you understand what I was trying to do though?

MIKE

Inspire me to beat up all the bad people?

MELISSA

NO!

MIKE

Kidding, relax. But Mel... there was still so much crap in there!

MELISSA

Yeah, and there always will be. And you know what? Those memories you hammered down will probably keep coming back anyways.

MIKE

So... what was the point of that?

MELISSA

The point was that you have two options. Let other people get in the way, or push 'em out of the way and keep moving. Figuratively, I mean. So, what do you say? You're not going to become the next Charles Foster Kane, are you?

MIKE

Not a chance. If not for me, to spare a generation of kids from innocuous lectures about the movies based on me!

MELISSA

Fair enough!

Super hug!

MELISSA

Oh, and Mike? I'm sorry I called you a bitch and slapped you in the head.

MIKE

It's all good. You know, you're kinda sexy when you lay down the law like that.

MELISSA

Oh, really? Well, I think it's time I laid it down again, don't you?

MIKE

Man, there's nothing blocking my sex drive, is there?

MELISSA

Surprisingly, no!

She leaps on me again!!!

scene 9- int. mike's living room, october 15th, evening

LEE, PHIL, and I are sitting around sort of doing nothing. PHIL is playing guitar, LEE is drawing, I'm intermittently watching a sports thing.

MIKE

Scrotal helix!

phil

Carnal manipulations!

MIKE

Eurethral distortion!

PHIL

Rectal invasion!

MIKE

Gross. Hey Lee, what are you drawing?

LEE

Just my warrior princess riding a dragon.

He shows this super awesome drawing of... well, a warrior princess riding a dragon.

MIKE

You know, Melissa is sort of like your warrior princess... and your dragon thing. Wouldn't you say?

LEE

Yeah, I guess she is.

PHIL

Oh, how is Melissa, anyways? Is she coming over?

MIKE

Not tonight... anyways Lee... I've been doing some drawings too. They're not very good, but if you want to take a look at 'em...

I hand him my crappy portfolio and he takes a look at it. It's like mediocre drawings of my characters 'n' stuff.

MIKE

I know, they're crap compared to yours-

LEE

Well, they're not all that bad. At least they look like things.

MIKE

They're... not... bad?

LEE

Well... they need some work, but I can give you some pointers. And if you keep working, you can be really good.

I beam a little bit. In my brain, MELISSA is beaming too.

MIKE

Well... cool. (beat.) Now Lee... there's something you said to me in 6th grade that I want to talk to you about...

outro sequence!!!

Do I need to get over myself? Lay off, I'm working on it!!!